UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/RW/HLM/L.1
27 July 1994

Original English

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING
Vienna, 17-21 October 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

4. Election of Officers

5. Review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies on Equality, Development and Peace.

6. Women and the Economy

   (a) Trends in Women's Role in the Economy
   (b) Demographic and Statistical Trends and Issues
   (c) Women's Access to Employment and Entrepreneurship
   (d) Role of Women in the Transition Processes

7. Women in Public Life and Governance

8. The ECE Input into the Platform for Action

9. Adoption of the Report

10. Closing of the Meeting

GE.94-22640

Annotations

Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

1. The Meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Welcome and other inaugural statements will be made indicating objectives, scope and expected results of the High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting.

Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Rule 14 of the rules of procedure provides that the High-level Preparatory Meeting shall, at its first Meeting, adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Meeting.

3. In decision K(48) on the ECE's contribution to the preparatory work on the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Commission decided that the agenda for the preparatory Meeting shall include inter alia a review and appraisal of the implementation at the regional level of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000, and an elaboration of regional input to the Platform of Action, emphasizing the role of women in the economy, in particular in countries in transition. Subsequently, after a series of consultative meetings with ECE member States, the Commission endorsed the main headings of the provisional agenda by its decision J(49).

Documentation
Draft agenda (E/ECE/RW/HLM/L.1)

Item 3. Adoption of the rules of procedure

4. The provisional rules of procedure of the High-level Preparatory Meeting are based on the ECE rules of procedure, amended so as to reflect the specificity of the Meeting, including the constitution of a Bureau and the participation of non-governmental organizations.

Documentation
Rules of Procedure. (E/ECE/RW/HLM/L.2)

Item 4. Election of officers

5. Rule 5 of the rules of procedure provides that the High-level Preparatory Meeting shall elect from among its representatives a Chairperson, 5 Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. Rule 12 provides that the Meeting may establish one or two open ended drafting group(s) as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

Item 5. Review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies on Equality, Development and Peace

6. The report by the secretariat for this item will be based on the national reports of ECE member States which will be available at the time of the preparation of this document. The latter will carry out an assessment of progress made and

obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies on Equality, Development and Peace. It will also highlight the new priorities for action for the advancement of women in the countries concerned.

Documentation
Report by the secretariat on the Review and Appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies at the regional level in the three major areas covered by the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies: Equality, Development and Peace. (E/ECE/RW/HLM/1)

Item 6. Women and the economy

(a) Trends in Women's Role in the Economy

7. During informal discussions with ECE member States it was envisaged that discussion in this area might focus, inter alia, on the following issue: new economic trends within the region with emphasis on how the changing economic environment affects the role, participation and situation of women. In this context, exclusion of women from the economic mainstream will be considered. The role of women in achieving sustainable development will be reviewed. The areas and proposals for concrete activities will be highlighted to eliminate gender bias and to ensure women's access to economic resources.

A holistic rather than sectoral approach would be followed with reference to major economic sectors, including work done by women in the informal and household sectors.

Documentation
Report by the secretariat on trends in women's role in the economy. (E/ECE/RW/HLM/2)

(b) Demographic and Statistical Trends and Issues

8. During informal discussions with ECE member States it was envisaged that discussions in this area might focus, inter alia, on the following issues: based on the ongoing programmes of ECE, presentation of a review of the demographic trends in the region such as migration, fertility, etc., as well as of the work made on gender specific statistics, including the need for new insights and methodological approaches.

Documentation
Report by the secretariat on the demographic situation of women in the region and on past and planned future work in improving statistics on women. (E/ECE/RW/HLM/3)

(c) Women's Access to Employment and Entrepreneurship

9. During informal discussions with ECE member States it was envisaged that discussion in this area might focus, inter alia, on the following issues: suppression of hierarchical gender segregation, promotion of gender equality in terms of access to employment, sectoral and occupational distribution, as well as wages and earnings, emphasizing the principle of equal pay and equal value; gender reconciliation of employment and family life through partnership in sharing tasks and responsibilities, with the support of appropriate family policy such as legal conducts for working parents; life-cycle approaches to women employment with a

particular focus on the situation of the elderly and young women; women's changes in work place and unemployment, and their impact on family; improvement of safety, health and working conditions of women; elimination of violence at the work place. Labour-related relative poverty will be also highlighted within the identified world trend of "feminization of poverty"; in this context, particular attention will be paid to the situation of those groups which are the most affected by unemployment in all the economies of the ECE region, in particular poor urban women, migrants and immigrants, disabled, those affected by HIV, refugees and ethnic minorities.

10. Discussion on women's entrepreneurship in both market-based and transition economies will focus on the role of medium, small and micro enterprises for creating gainful entrepreneurial employment, including in the informal sector. It will highlight the need to promote women's access to credit and to their land property rights. In this framework, special attention will be given to women's education and training needs, including the managerial level.

Documentation:
Joint report by the ECE and ILO secretariats on women's access to employment and entrepreneurship. (E/ECE/RW/HLM/4)

(d) Role of Women in the transition processes

11. During informal discussions with ECE member States it was envisaged that discussions in this area might focus, inter alia, on the following issues: the specific role of and consequences for women of economic restructuring, strengthening of entrepreneurship, including through privatization, and subsequent changes in various sectors of the economy. The need to apply gender analysis in economic planning and programming and in international assistance will be highlighted, as well as the need to examine social safety nets for most affected groups in countries with economies in transition.

Documentation:
Report by the secretariat on the role of women in the transition process. (E/ECE/RW/HLM/5)

Item 7. Women in public life and governance

12. During informal discussions with ECE member States it was envisaged that discussions in this area might focus, inter alia, on the following issues: women's rights and responsibilities for participation and leadership in public life and governance at all levels; contributions to policy-making from women's perspective, in the framework of public, political and civil society, including community-based governance and activities through non-governmental organizations; strategies and instruments to avoid gender bias and improve the empowerment of women in political action, economic decision-making, planning and programming and management in both public and private sectors, including the role of communication and mass-media, political and management training, etc.

Documentation
Report by the secretariat on women in public life and governance.
(E/ECE/RW/HLM/6)

Item 8. The ECE input into the Platform for Action

13. The Fourth World Conference is expected to adopt a platform for action to serve as a guide to Governments for ensuring the advancement of women. In this framework, the High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting is expected to adopt a final document providing the ECE input into the Platform for Action as well as recommendations for the region itself.

Documentation
Expected outcome of the High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting. (E/ECE/RW/HLM/L.3)

Item 9. Adoption of the report

14. In accordance with Rule 46 of the rules of procedure, the High-level Preparatory Meeting shall submit a full report on its activities and plans to ECOSOC through the Economic Commission for Europe. The Executive Secretary will submit a report resulting from the High-level Preparatory Meeting which will serve as the region's contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women, at the 50th Session of the Commission to be held from 3 - 11 April 1995.

Note: The list of documents contributed to the Meeting by UN institutions and other intergovernmental organizations will be made available to member States prior to or during the High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting.